

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** October 6, 2015

**Location:** Hudson High School  
69 Brigham Street

Members present: Jennifer O'Brien, Michele Tousignant Dufour, Brian Davis, Allyson Hay, Glenn Maston and Elizabeth Hallsworth

Members absent: George Luoto

Others present: Dr. Jodi Fortuna, Superintendent  
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary

Student Representative: Alicia Sagastume

**I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:03 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien.

Dr. Fortuna introduced Alicia Sagastume as the School Committee's new student representative. Ms. Sagastume is currently a junior at Hudson High School and is involved in student government, UNICEF Club and the Drama Society.

Dr. Fortuna welcomed Alicia and thanked her for her service.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – September 21, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Davis abstaining, the motion passed.

**III. Public Participation:**

None.

**IV. Reports:**

**Student Representative Report**

Student representative, Alicia Sagastume, shared with the Committee that she is interested in starting a Rotary Club at Hudson High School, and that the Student Council is working on a bathroom policy. Ms. Sagastume expressed concern on the different policies regarding unused bathroom passes being put towards extra credit with certain teachers. All teachers will be surveyed on their bathroom policies and she will update the Committee on the findings.

### **Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna**

Dr. Fortuna acknowledged the events of this past week at Umpqua Community College in Oregon and reassured parents and the community that the District continues to have strict security procedures in place at all of our buildings and that building administrators and staff will always keep the safety of our students as their top priority.

### **The Power of Expectations**

The District Leadership Team met this week and focused on two main topics, the idea of professional expectations and the inherent challenges that face leaders and teachers in the current educational landscape, as well as the review and evaluation of the current common District Assessments.

### **District Half –Day Professional Development**

The District half day on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, was the official roll out to teachers of the District Improvement Plan and the eight focus elements from the Educator Evaluations that supports the work of the District Improvement Plan.

This year, the District mandated State training was completed by staff via technology.

### **Professional Teacher Status Ceremony**

On Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the District Leadership Team hosted the first annual Professional Teacher Status Award Ceremony. Administrators recognized the accomplishments of each of the 13 teachers that achieved Professional Teacher Status this year.

Dr. Fortuna thanked all School Committee members who attended the event.

### **Student Transportation**

On Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Initiative, the District coordinated a meeting to assess the Quinn Middle School traffic patterns to determine options for improving the traffic flow at dismissal. Representatives from the Hudson Police and Fire Departments, North Reading Transportation and Administration will attend.

### **School Health and Safety Advisory Council**

The first meeting of the year for the School Health and Safety Advisory Council was held on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The group focused on completing the District's Crisis Response Plan and planning an approach to reduce alcohol consumption by high school students, an area identified as a focus given data from the most recent MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey.

## **Curriculum and Instruction Update**

### **Math Night**

On Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Forest Avenue teachers, the Farley Librarian, and the District Math Coach hosted a Family Math Night at Forest Avenue School. They displayed confidence as math educators and an understanding of the theory and research behind the District's core math resource, Engage NY. Parents and students enjoyed the math activities and games that the team planned.

Dr. Fortuna thanked the following staff for their hard work and dedication:

- Craig Golden- Kindergarten
- Erin MacKay- First Grade
- Karen Eadie- First Grade
- Alexanne Whitney- Second Grade
- Aubrey Andreozzi- Third Grade
- Carlene Isham- Fourth Grade
- Danielle Spilotros- Librarian (Farley)
- Maria Riccutti- Math Specialist (Forest)
- Julie Basler- Elementary Math Coach (District)

### **School Visits**

- Farley- Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Quinn- Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Forest- Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Special Education Coordinated Program Review – Corrective Action Plan**

Last spring, the District went through a Coordinated Program Review of its Special Education Program. These reviews are conducted by the Department of Elementary and Special Education approximately every six years.

The District's Special Education Program was reviewed in 67 compliance areas. While Hudson did very well in the compliance review, the District was found to be out of compliance in only one area:

- *School District Response to Parental Request for Independent Educational Evaluation*

The District was found to have partially implemented four other criteria:

- *IEP Team Composition and Attendance*
- *Least Restrictive Program Selected*
- *Communications are in English and Primary Language of the Home*
- *Special Education Facilities and Classrooms*

Dr. Fortuna reported that the District was found to be fully compliant with 93% of program evaluation elements, and that the District had instituted corrective action and mitigated the identified issues in all instances through a program of professional learning with team chairpeople, revisions to Special Education Procedural Manuals, and relocation of classrooms.

### **Special Education Parent's Advisory Council**

Dr. Fortuna announced that the current leadership of the Hudson Special Education Parent Advisory Council opted to remove themselves from the Hudson Special Education Parent Advisory Council Board and will begin their own independent parent support group. The new group will not be affiliated in any way by the Hudson Public Schools.

The former Board of the Hudson Special Education Parent Advisory Council notified all levels of State and local agencies, politicians and parents of their decision. Dr. Fortuna and, Catherine Kilcoyne, Director of Student Services, were not made aware of this decision. The notification was delivered to various parties contained erroneous information, some of which will be addressed in communication from the District's Legal Counsel.

The District would like the community to know that the Hudson Special Education Parent Advisory Council (H-SEPAC) will not cease to exist. It continues to be a tremendous opportunity for the District and community to join together and refresh the organization.

The District will reach out to the community through emails, fliers, and phone calls and actively recruit members and officers to collaborate and work to grow and strengthen the District's programs for students with disabilities. Ms. Kilcoyne remains committed to reaching out to parents, and announced a H-SEPAC membership drive on October 22<sup>nd</sup> in conjunction with the District's unified fall sport, bocce ball.

Dr. Fortuna hopes to make the H-SEPAC a revitalized organization and an active partner in the District's improvement strategy.

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, added that, as Board liaison, she will also be reaching out to parents to support in that rebuilding.

**Superintendent's Items of Interest**

**Congratulations to Dr. Brian Reagan**

Dr. Fortuna congratulated Hudson High School Principal Brian Reagan for successfully defending his dissertation and fulfilling all requirements to receive an Ed.D. from Northeastern University.

Dr. Reagan's research was titled "The Changing Role of the High School Principal: Instructional Leadership in an Era of Increased Accountability."

Dr. Fortuna also recognized Dr. Reagan's family, his wife, Andrea, and his children, Caitlin and Daniel for their committed support.

**National Art Honor Society Induction**

Dr. Fortuna invited Committee members to attend the induction of the newest members of the National Art Honor Society which will take place on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in the High School Mini-Theater.

V. **Enrollment**

All enrollment numbers are up to date. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education collects enrollment data in October, March and June.

VI. **Subcommittee Reports:**

Policy Subcommittee met on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss a list of policy priorities for the upcoming year.

Ms. Hay reported that the Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee met and will continue to keep the Committee updated on their work.

**Matters for Discussion:**

Budget Request by Girl Scout Rebecca Moran:

Hudson High School student Rebecca Moran presented to the Committee the Silver Award project that she has been working towards in Girls Scouts. The project is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest award given by Girl Scouts for projects which will make a lasting, sustainable difference in the community.

Rebecca shared that the goal of her project was to donate recess equipment to Farley Elementary School. Rebecca met with Principal Provost and the Farley Home and School and discussed the lack of equipment for the recess cart for the children to play with. She then completed surveys in the schools to see what they needed and what equipment they

*Approved*

wanted. Rebecca then went around to local businesses for donations and purchased balls, hula hoops and other equipment.

Rebecca explained that in order to ensure sustainability of her project, the physical education department needs more funding for more equipment so that every child can play.

Committee members thanked Ms. Moran for all her hard work on her project.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, thanked Ms. Moran for her amazing insight and hard work and will look into the matter further.

## VII. **Matters for Action:**

### 1. Approval of School Improvement Plans:

- Approval of School Improvement Plan – Hudson High School - Principal Dr. Brian Reagan presented the *School Improvement Plan* for Hudson High School.
- Approval of School Improvement Plan – Quinn Middle School: Principal Jason Webster presented the *School Improvement Plan* for Quinn Middle School.
- Approval of School Improvement Plan – Forest Avenue Elementary School – Principal David Champigny presented the *School Improvement Plan* for Forest Avenue Elementary School.
- Approval of School Improvement Plan –C.A. Farley Elementary School – Principal Melissa Provost presented the *School Improvement Plan* for C.A. Farley Elementary School.
- Approval of School Improvement Plan – J.L. Mulready Elementary School – Principal Kelly Whitmore presented the *School Improvement Plan* for the J.L. Mulready Elementary School.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the School Improvement Plans for all schools, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

### 2. Approval of Contract with Whitsons Culinary Group

Dr. Fortuna announced that due to a delay from the State regarding the Whitsons Culinary Group contract, the item will be tabled to the next School Committee meeting set for Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

3. Approval of Hudson High School Trip to the UNESCO Conference in Santarem, Portugal in January, 2016 :

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the Hudson High School trip to the UNESCO Conference in Santarem, Portugal in January 2016.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School trip to the UNESCO Conference in Santarem, Portugal in January 2016 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Davis objecting, the motion passed.

**VII. Reclassifications**

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Davis abstaining, the motion passed.

**VIII. Items of Interest to the School Committee**

Ms. Hay asked when MCAS results will be mailed to parents.

Dr. Fortuna responded that MCAS results would be out in the mail the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Davis expressed concern over the speed limit on Brigham Road and the hazard it is to students.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Fortuna advised Mr. Davis that that concern should be addressed to the Internal Traffic Committee. Ms. O'Brien will write a letter to the Committee and Ms. Hallsworth volunteered to present their concern to the Internal Traffic Committee.

**IX. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 8:50 p.m., Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Davis. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee